of the Minister is only Rs. 1 lakh, and the readers of the paper were asked to imagine for themselves what would be in reality the position of a Minister who has just got Rs. 1 lakh to spend in a year. This is typical of the many ill-informed criticisms of our constitutional machinery. Evidently the writer of this article has been under the impression that the special grant of Rs. 1 lakh given for rural development during the coming year represents all the funds placed at the disposal of the Minister for the departments under his control. You will see from the budget figures that the total expenditure in 1115 for the transferred departments in the control of the Minister will be Rs. 8·04 lakhs. It is easy to argue that considering the total size of the budget the amount spent on the transferred departments is rather small. With the limited resources at the disposal of this Government, it would be almost impossible to increase the expenditure under these departments to any considerable extent. It is the intention of Government that more and more funds should be diverted to these nation-building activities. Even if the entire control over the finances of the State were transferred to a popular Minister, he would find that for many years to come at any rate he cannot divert to the transferred departments anything very much in excess of the amounts now allotted. In spite of all the criticisms, the fact remains that in the wide and important field of rural development activities the popular Minister has free and unfettered control in this State.

THE JUDICIARY

15. My third claim on behalf of the Cochin State is the existence of an independent judiciary which enforces the rule of law. Whatever might be the political powers enjoyed by a people, their ultimate safety depends upon the judicial system. Cochin has had an efficient and independent judiciary for many decades. By the creation of the High Court we have perfected our judicial system. The executive in our State is separated from the judiciary. Every citizen in this State can know what are his legal rights and obligations. Our system of law is an open book. Everyone in this State, from the highest to the lowest, is governed by the same system of law. We have no special repressive laws on our Statute Book. We have no Star Chamber methods. This absolute rule of law in this State is administered by an efficient and independent judiciary. It is only colossal ignorance or consuming jealousy that would make anyone deny the existence in this State of the rule of law or a thoroughly independent judiciary.

THE FUTURE

16. In the collective field of human activity represented by the modern State, this small State of Cochin is not merely keeping

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pace with the march of time but has, in certain respects, advanced ahead of the times. There are no relics in this State of either mediaeval feudalism or unrestricted autocracy of a single individual. The constitution under which the administration of this State is carried on is a well-defined one, and it is an open book for any one to read. It is possible to pick holes in that constitution. It is possible to point out provisions in that constitution which are defective and which may lead to deadlocks. Constitutions, however, are to be judged not so much by the written word but by the character of the people and the spirit of those entrusted with the task of working the constitution. In inaugurating the new constitution a year ago, His Highness the Maharaja said "It is my genuine desire to share my authority with my people that prompted me to take this step." These are memorable words. The ambition of the people themselves cannot be summed up in better language. The political ambition of the people of this State is to share the burden with their Ruler, and if they continue to show the same spirit of good will and co-operation that they have evinced so far, there is not the slightest doubt that in the fulness of time they will realise all their legitimate ambitions and aspirations.

CONDOLENCE MOTIONS.

1. Demise of Rao Bahadur P. Narayana Menon.

* **Dr. A. R. Menon** *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Sir, I beg leave of the House to move a resolution of condolence on the sad demise of Mr. P. Narayana Menon, who was for some time Diwan of the State. Mr. Narayana Menon though belonging to British Malabar, has been so closely connected with our State by various ties that he was practically looked upon as a citizen of our State. He married in this State from a most ancient and respectable family, and the best part of his life was devoted to service in British India. He rose by various stages to the position of Secretary to the Madras Government and later on as a Presidency Magistrate of the premier city of Madras. After retirement he came and settled down here and he had the signal good fortune to have the confidence of His Highness the Maharaja, so much so, at a critical period, he was appointed Diwan of the State. Though the rules were made and other spade-work of this Council was done by Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar, the inauguration was conducted by Mr. Narayana Menon. And after the introduction of this reform and the establishment of this Council, he retired from service. After retirement he lived in Trichur and in the fulness of fame and in the fulness of time, he passed away from our midst. It may be that all his contributions may not meet

* Speech not corrected by the hon'ble member.

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